

MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

Board:

D. Lang, Chair
J. Bremner, Vice-Chair
M. J. Blackmore
S. Chew (*via video conference*)
K. Etheridge (*via video conference*)
A. Gribbin (*via video conference*)
S. Nazaroff
M. Shunter
L. Trenaman

Student Trustees:

M. Gretchen, MSSS
E. Lecompte, KRSS

District Staff:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
C. MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer
L. Carriere, Director of Aboriginal Education (*via video conference*)
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
D. Holitzki, Assistant Superintendent
C. Kerr, Director of Operations
C. Makeiv, District Literacy Teacher Coordinator
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Guests:

Nil

Regrets:

Nil

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda – Nil

4. Consent Package Questions

Secretary-Treasurer MacArthur answered questions raised by a Trustee on the monthly financial report. Expenditures are largely trending as projected. The amended budget is presented in February with a detailed analysis of budget trends.

5. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-026

THAT the Agenda for this December 10, 2024 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Receiving Public Presentations – Nil

7. Comments or Questions from the Public regarding items on this Agenda – Nil

8. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-027

THAT the minutes from the November 12, 2024 Meeting of the Board held in public BE **ADOPTED**, as circulated.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking – Nil

10. Education – Reports from the Superintendent

A. Early Years Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki presented the Early Years Continuous Learning Report 2024-2025, highlighting SD8's commitment to improving literacy and numeracy and supporting priority learners, including Indigenous students, children in care, and English Language Learners. The 2024-2027 action plan emphasized educator development, expanded child care spaces, and data monitoring. Past achievements showed increased literacy, numeracy, and improved early learning environments. Community engagement and reconciliation were highlighted as vital for a thriving educational ecosystem. Priority learners' progress is closely tracked, with improvements in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional learning and opportunities to connect learning to real-world contexts.

B. Child Care Provision Update

Assistant Superintendent Holitzki updated the Board on SD8's 2024-2025 child care initiatives, aligned with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's goals for accessibility, affordability, and quality. The report outlined progress since 2018, including fee reductions, the \$10-a-day program, and increased support for providers. It also reviewed operational programs, health and safety compliance, and collaboration with community agencies. Future plans include expanding child care spaces through the New Spaces Fund, addressing community needs in Creston, Nelson, and Crawford Bay.

C. Trustees thanked Assistant Superintendent Holitzki and her team.

D. Graduation Ceremonies 2025

Superintendent Smillie presented the schedule for the 2025 graduation ceremonies at secondary schools within the district. Trustees are invited and encouraged to attend these ceremonies, with a designated trustee representative scheduled to speak at each event. The specific times and locations of the graduation ceremonies will be confirmed as the dates approach.

11. Operations and Finance – Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer

A. Quarterly Capital Plan Update

Director Kerr presented updates on SD8's capital projects, including Minor Capital Operations, the Annual Facility Grant, and the Food Infrastructure Program. Highlights

include addressing the "Do not drink" order at Brent Kennedy Elementary, completing new infrastructure, and ongoing HVAC upgrades at Mount Sentinel Secondary. Jewett School's Firesmart project is removing hazardous trees while Kootenay River Secondary's kitchen supports the Feeding Futures initiative. South Nelson Elementary and Winlaw Elementary addressed drainage and safety concerns, and Trafalgar Middle is installing sprinklers. New bus charging stations are being commissioned in Nelson and Creston. Multiple Food Infrastructure Program projects are approved and progressing. A question was asked about including project costs in the quarterly capital update. This would be complex and potentially confusing due to varying projects for which the Annual Facility Grant is used. The Quarterly Capital Updates focuses on progress rather than financial specifics.

12. Governance and Policy

A. Election of BCPSEA Representative (11 month term)

Chair Lang was acclaimed BCPSEA Representative.

Trustee Chew was acclaimed BCPSEA Alternate.

B. Destruction of Ballots (if there is a secret ballot vote held) – Nil

C. Appointment of Committee Representatives and Alternates by the Chair

Chair Lang announced the appointments of committee representatives and alternates:

- Accessibility Committee: Trustee Nazaroff (Rep), Trustee Blackmore (Alternate)
- Joint Safety Advisory Committee: Trustee Trenaman (Rep), Trustee Nazaroff (Rep)
- Policy Review Committee: Trustee Etheridge (Chair of Policy, Operations and Finance Committee), Chair Lang (ex officio), Vice Chair Bremner (Chair designate), Trustee Chew (Trustee appointment)

With two representatives for JSAC, an alternate is not required.

D. Approval of KBB BCSTA Motions

The Board reviewed the motions to be brought forward at the Kootenay Boundary Branch motion building session in January.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-028

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for the development of Provincial Climate Action and Sustainability Curriculum; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 24/25-029

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide targeted funding for school districts to financially support District

Parent Advisory Councils in developing and facilitating a coordinated parent advocacy program; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

24/25-030

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) advocate to the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide targeted funding to school districts to financially support District Parent Advisory Councils to access Director's insurance; and

THAT this proposal be brought forward to the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch meeting for consideration for a motion to be brought forward to the BCSTA.

The motion carried unanimously.

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Verbal Reports

A. Student Trustees

- Kootenay River Secondary School (Student Trustee Lecompte)
Kootenay River Secondary School celebrated winter season at the winter dance on December 6th as well as with the winter parade held on December 7th. The KRSS Career Class will be hosting the winter carnival with an array of mini events on December 20th and invites Trustees to attend.
- Mount Sentinel Secondary (Student Trustee Gretchen)
Due to technical difficulties, Student Trustee Gretchen was unable to share the report for Mount Sentinel Secondary.

B. Trustees

- Trustee Trenaman attended the BCSTA Academy in Vancouver, as well as BCSTA Bylaw Review Committee.
- Trustee Chew mentioned the Recreation Commission meeting for Salmo & Area G.
- Trustee Blackmore attended the BCSTA Academy and found the setting of remaining with the same cohort throughout the event beneficial.
- Trustee Shunter commended the focus on student voices at the BCSTA Academy.
- Vice Chair Bremner enjoyed the professional learning at the BCSTA Academy, including the tracking tools presented and the details about coherence across the province. She attended DPAC meeting virtually and learned about their priorities during this term.

C. Chair

Chair Lang was unable to attend the BCSTA Academy. She attended the KBB meeting and DPAC meeting remotely. The new Minister of Education and Child Care, Honourable Lisa Beare, is reaching out all Board Chairs. Chair Lang was able to speak with her about declining enrollment as well as infrastructure needs in Salmo. Chair Lang asked about a timeline for implementing initiatives that were promised during the election campaign. Chair Lang will meet with MLA Anderson in January to advocate for education in the communities.

D. British Columbia School Trustee Association (BCSTA) – Nil

E. British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) – Nil

F. District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) – See above.

G. Other – Nil

15. **Comments or Questions from the Public** – Nil

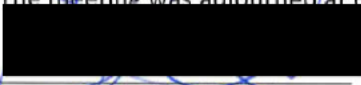
16. **Meeting Schedule and Reminders**

A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in Public is scheduled for January 14, 2025.

17. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.



Board Chair



Secretary-Treasurer